



## THEY'RE UNDETERRED

February 28, 2021

Matthew 5:10 – 12

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### MESSAGE NOTES

**Persecution: To pursue or to drive away.**

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. — Matthew 5:10*

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. — 1 Peter 4:12 – 14*

**For of them is the kingdom of heaven.**

*You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. — Matthew 5:43 – 45*

*Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst. (or is within you)." — Luke 17:20 – 21*

*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. — Matthew 5:11 – 12*

Being blessed isn't about me receiving a reward. It's about describing the way I am. It's the condition of my heart, my thinking, and the way I live. The Greek word for blessed, Makarios, translates back into the Hebrew word, eeesher. This eeesher is a state of bliss. It's a state that we live in. I enjoy heavenly bliss because I live and walk in it. It's the state of my heart as it walks in the bliss and well-being of walking in godliness, reflecting God's character. It's better than being happy, because there are painful circumstances which will not leave me happy, but even in those painful circumstances I can still live this state of bliss.

*That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. — 2 Corinthians 12:10*

*You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. I heard this once ... "Your greatest test will be how you handle someone who mishandled you." — Matthew 5:43 – 45*

**I heard this once..."Your greatest test will be how you handle someone who mishandled you."**

*Dan Ham said this ... "When Jesus said to love your enemies and bless those who curse you and do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, what kind of person or political group or politician did He exempt?"*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 5:10 – 12 and 1 Peter 4:14 – 15

- What was one thing from the message that stuck out to you and why?
- Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? Explain the situation. How did you respond?
- For what reason should a believer be persecuted?
- How might persecution express itself in our current culture?
- How have our comforts and culture weakened our resolve in facing persecution?
- Do you fear persecution? Why or why not?
- How might we identify with behavior that gets us persecuted unnecessarily?
- In 1 Peter 4:14 – 15, what does Peter say is a legitimate reason for being persecuted? What does verse 15 say we are not to be persecuted for? What do you think about this verse?
- What are some ways you can love your enemies or bless those that curse you or do good to those who persecute you?
- What are some steps that you can take to be more open and courageous with your beliefs?